

Human Nature Relationship in Frances Hodgson Burnett *The Secret Garden*.

Abstract

Frances Hodgson Burnett's The Secret Garden shows the human nature relationship; the two protagonists Mary and Colin get healed in nature. Nature heals human; she has mysterious power of nature which can heal human both from mental and physical illness because in nature there is a presence of power which heals secretly hypnotizing. Mary and Colin are healed in the nature, with the help of the spring time, the moorland, the secret garden, friendship with Dickon and the Robin. The magic of the nature secretly heals both plants and animals showing very close affinity to each other. Moreover, it explores the natural power, new experiences and experiments in the natural world and its relation to human beings. Furthermore, the relationship between humans and nature were seen as a significant topic as they both gained benefit from each other and needed each other in order to survive. This thesis basically explores the quest of human nature relationship and the issue of environmental awareness; the two protagonists were able to encourage readers to take action, save the natural environment, and think about their moral responsibilities for the natural world. Although, this thesis explores the term like enlightenment, harmony and awakening of the protagonist. This is good example of showing relationship of human and nature which will be significant to carry on research related to human nature relationship in the environment through literary perspectives and to be aware to the environment.

The Secret Garden, a novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett shows human nature relationship, an intimate relationship between human and nature. This novel also shows the themes of communion, renewal and liberation. The communion awareness is shown between human and nature. Here, nature entirely heals human with the

greatest mysterious power of curing. This thesis tries to explore human nature harmony of Mary Lennox and Colin Carven with nature. Carven is physically handicapped and psychologically depressed. The ecological preservation and the healing power of the nature looks quite obsessed with materialistic culture of native town, Misselthwate. Burnett shows the garden for co-existence of human nature. The death of Colin's mother and then the dead of garden are the symbol of human nature relationship on one hand. On the other hand, the improvement of physical and psychological status of Mary and Colin symbolizes the harmonious spontaneity of human with nature. The entry of the children into the garden, new life of dead garden and healing process of the children also reflect human and nature connectivity. This novel symbolizes both destruction and regeneration of the family. In fact, there is affinity between human and nature.

The Secret Garden is the manifesto of children's psychological attitudes and gradual change in the environment. This evokes the ecological awareness for conservation of the human nature harmony reflecting on the attraction between human communions to nature. The essence of outside environment is a subject matter which clearly portrays human beings as a part of nature. The balance between human and non-human environment that Burnett proposes is to show the reality of human life. Burnett creates an ideal community, a harmonious world of both human and non-human nature in the garden.

The Secret Garden is related to environmental literature. Its ecological perspective advocates human nature relationship and healing power of nature. The novel is an exploration of human existence in relation with nature. And also it includes magical and secrete element in human-nature relationship. The little girl Mary Lennox born in India to wealthy British parents seems like a selfish, ill

tempered and spoiled girl. She hates her parents who constantly refuse her from the beginning of life. And another character almost the same sensations are presented is Colin Craven whose mother dies when he is born. As his father cannot reconcile to his wife's loss he starts refusing the little boy. Actually, Colin is damaged both mentally and physically. He believes that he is responsible for the death of his mother and is also a burden for his father. "And my father doesn't even care, Colin went on, as if he hadn't heard. He hates me because my mother died when I was born. He can't bear to look at me". (42) this line symbolizes the condition of Colin. People who know Colin feel pity for him and they think he will die early. In those straitened circumstances; Mary and Colin do not have any chances to grow up as healthy and happy adults. When Mary moves to Yorkshire, nature brings her to discover the garden. It comes in the form of the robin. The bird also helps her find the key to the garden. Based on western belief, robin is the symbol of hope and renewal. It comes to help her and leads her the way to turns into communion with nature. Mary's secret garden discovery becomes the turning point of the story.

In *The Secret Garden* animals, plants and fresh air of garden play the role of curing agents to generate a new life. Mary is described as ugly, ill tempered and viciously demanding. The entire responsibility of being hateful is not precisely in her: the blame lies with her parents particularly to her mother. Disappointed with her daughter's ugliness and sickness, Mary's mother cruelly refuses to see her, instead leaving her in Indian servants who care nothing at all for the child. Mary's only pleasure, even at this early point in the novel is gardening. She sits beneath a tree and idly places cut flowers in mounds. After the death of her parents in the Cholera epidemics, she was totally distracted from the nature; Mary remains unfriendly, rude bored and miserable child. but she at the end has been healed by the nature. The

nature plays a role of the mother to her because the absence of mother becomes fulfilled when she keeps relation with the garden, symbolically to the nature.

Richard Kerridge says that “This novel offers more persuasive parallels of the life of Mary and the life of the secret garden because for both Mary and Garden new life has become successful when they had close proximity with natural things.” While the secret garden is coming alive, two children are also coming alive with it.

Mary is only awful because of the wretched circumstances of her early childhood. She undergoes loneliness and displacement that she herself is not able to express. But she becomes active and interested in the world around her. It is supposed that there is nothing innately cruel about Mistress Mary; she is a victim of her own isolation. Mary develops real affection for her maidservants. Mary slowly falls in love with Dickon and befriends Colin and Ben Weatherstaff. In short, she becomes utterly engrossed in the world around her.

The nature like secret garden becomes lifelong inspiration to her. There remains no room for the disagreeable thoughts to occupy her mind so that she becomes well and happy. Her mind is full of happiness, pleasure and satisfaction at the end of this novel because there is harmony and enlighten in nature. So, her blood has grown warm and feels hunger for the first time in her life, Desson Howe argues:

When Mary finds a mysterious, locked up garden, she discovers a joyful refuge for herself, her spoiled, bedridden cousin Colin and a country lad called Dickon. The three children including Dickon create a new family of their own with even the dire Mrs. Medlock shedding a tear at Colin’s speedy recovery. The garden itself is a blooming opportunity.

Howe in above lines says that garden is a blooming opportunity to reconcile all three

children altogether and provides the opportunity of meeting the garden. These lines mention the mystery of garden and the condition of Mary, Colin and Dickon to whom Mrs. Medlock drops tears of sympathy and hope of getting new life.

Later on, when she has relation with the bird robin and the garden all the problems and her preoccupied mind sets gradually whipped and she feels happy. Her mind lightens after having relation with nature. The nature therefore is an explorer, healer and a close friend to her and heals her mental, physical and psychological trauma and becomes a complete human being. The fresh air gives her inspiration and a new source of life because the nature provides her every kind of treatment to change her in this ordinary child. Without nature, there is no possibility of changing status.

Furthermore this novel shows the relation between human and nature creating consequent position of Mary healing inwardly. This brings the ecocritical perspective which Greg Garrard defines, "Ecocriticism is the study of relationship between humans and non-humans, throughout human cultural history and entailing critical analysis of the term human itself" (5). He talks about the reciprocal relationship between human and natural world. The home ground of ecocriticism is the human's inseparable attachment with the nature in its existence. The relationship between human and non-human world is the primary focus of ecocritical studies. The novel of Burnett shows and reproves the reciprocal relationship of both human and nature in the text. Burnett expresses his concern for the independent existence of all the beings that are important part of this eco-system on the earth, so all the natural living beings equally share the same chemical and biological elements. If we deliver respect to other morally and spiritually in the same magnitude, we get respect on the same level from other side with same ethical balance normatively in this utopian biotic community.

The most disagreeable child, Miss Mary has become totally out of care from the family since her mother does not care her because of giving importance to glamour. Her father is a busy man and her mother is a great beauty who cares only to go to parties and amuse among gay people. Because of careless and unwanted activities, she becomes very much rude and awful:

She was six years old she was as tyrannical and selfish a little pig as ever lived. The young English governess who came to teach her to read and write disliked her so much that she gave up her place in three months, and when other governesses came to try to fill it they always went away in a shorter time than the first one. (1-2)

Without getting proper love, awareness, care and maternal love she faces psychological problem and becomes mentally sick. And also isolation from nature, distraction from the environment, deprivation of maternal and paternal love makes her apprehensive previously. But later on she comes close with all natural things. The bird robin, the garden, the springtime and Dickson's company heal her emotion and make her bold. When she meets the crusty old gardener, Ben Weatherstaff and his almost domestic robin, her enchantment with the bird is her first humanizing emotions.

Gradually as she finds thing outside herself to think about she becomes less disagreeable and unhappy. The fresh and quick vines of the moor awaken her desire and arouse her mind. She now knows that this is the best thing she could have done and she does not know when she begins to talk quickly or even run along the paths and down the path. She is inspiring upwardly and making herself stronger by fighting with the wind which sweeps down from the moor. She slowly happens to contact with the nature as enlightenment in her life.

Without this natural phenomenon, Mary cannot revive her life form crippled to

ordinary human being which has enlightened to bring a new change in life. In this issue Madelon S. Gohlke states:

The most immediately striking feature of *The Secret Garden* is that it begins with death. Mary, the lonely heroine of the book, is orphaned by an epidemic in India. Even more curious perhaps is the fact that she hardly seems to react. She is remarkably cool in the face of what would seem a devastating event in the life of any child. To all appearances, she is an imperious, self-willed, and otherwise unresponsive child. The only signs of inner activity are her tantrums, angry outbursts against a world which refuses to be controlled by her ... From this point, the narrative documents the process of her awakening, first to the world, then to other people, and simultaneously to her own feeling.

Here, Gohlke defines this text from the perspective of a girl who has become unresponsive child because of her family situation. Her anger is against a world which seems her to be strange. From this point Gohlke wants to define this text from the psycho-social perspective. He feels garden is the place of both tragedy; place of destruction of a family and the place of regeneration and restoration of a family. Mrs. Caraven has been sitting in the garden when she is struck by a falling branch which brings on the premature labor and delivery of her son Colin and ultimately causes her death. Though the natural processes of life and growth, this incident is seen to be destructive. And this event brings destruction in the life of Colin. But lastly this garden brings happiness and renewal in the life of children. This shows the enlightened and awakening of Mary and Colin from the obscurity, it is possible in relation with the nature.

The hidden or locked up garden becomes the secret garden and her own place

has revived her life into new life. The garden previously was the same like the condition of children. Her amateur attempts at gardening by clearing weeds away from the spring bulbs keep her occupied and happy. Mary is a secret creature who has not got homely environment so that she has totally been discarded. Mary trusts Colin immediately and the two children set about the task of bringing the garden back to life. Both Mary and Colin are happy and healthy now after having close relation with nature. It has a crucial role since nature has transformed her past critical days with positive attitudes. She comes with positive thinking only when she has been enlightened with nature. She is positive, happy, healthy and enlightened. Nature plays the role of mother since mother heals, tames, cares and provides life. After meeting Dickon in the garden, she gradually changes herself. This is just because of harmony of nature. There is no overnight transformation but from her outdoor life, the change is obvious and gradual. She gradually gains weight and the yellow of her skin is replaced by pink. She has found people she likes and an interest outside herself. These are the better aspects of life that transform her immediately from previous captive position. Here, Burnett's main theme is healing power of nature and the need to turn away from preoccupation with self showing the close relationship between human and nature.

Although *The Secret Garden* depicts the miserable effects of a loveless home, the central characters, Mary and Colin evolve into caring and sensitive beings through their own efforts, demonstrating that people are capable of changing their lives for the better. The protagonist Mary and Colin get new life after having frequent touch in nature since nature has become a life giving force to them to resurrect new life. In this situation Colin had enlightened about the nature and says:

Magic is always pushing and drawing and making things out of nothing. Everything is made out of Magic, leaves and trees, flowers and birds, badgers and foxes and squirrels and people. So it must be all around us. In this garden--in all the places. The Magic in this garden has made me stand up and know I am going to live to be a man. I am going to make the scientific experiment of trying to get some and put it in myself and make it push and draw me and make me strong. (150)

The above line indicates that the life of both Colin and Mary has totally changed by the healing power of nature. After being familiar with nature and getting hope of life, Colin starts thinking about nature. While the secret garden is coming alive, two children are also coming alive with it. *The Secret Garden* is essentially about the restorative properties of nature. On the arrival of Maytham Hall Mary was an ill-tempered and neglected child, but the garden gives her peace and it brings her life back together again. It has similar calming effects on Colin, who suffers from psychosomatic illness partly brought about by the obsessive nature of his father. His father remains in mourning for his late wife, but he too eventually finds solace and happiness through the garden.

Generally, nature helped them to get solace and happiness in life, which is the magical power of nature. So, this research has depicted to transform human environmental and ecological consciousness. And they value the integrity and interconnectedness between all things. It generally depicts the human relationship with the earth and its other members who equally share it. It adds place to the category of race, class and gender used to analyze literature; it means looking at how text represent the physical world and how literature raises questions about human interaction with nature. This can only appropriate by talking about the study of the

relationship between literature and the natural environment. Literature and natural environment is related to the ecocriticism in literary works that gives birth to the sense of kindness and love to the non human. These presentations of humans associating with other non human natural world, the communion between man and the physical ecosphere helps in understanding the harmonious relationship and co-existence of human as well as non human natural world. Concerns about maintaining or restoring a right relationship to nature are addressed in the environmental ethics. It also examines why biodiversity is valuable, why it is important not to accelerate the natural process of extinction. There are many species which provide us things of use such as food-stuffs and medicine.

This research conceptualizes nature as organism, highlighting the ethics of respect for nature. This framework builds on land ethics, nature as organism and ecological approaches developed by Aldo Leopold, Paul W. Tylor, Edward O. Wilson who emphasize pervasive feeling unconscious pretension, interdependence and co-participation among organisms of the ecosphere and environmentalism and social justice. The human and non human, animals and plants live on these tiny objects as Edward O. Wilson argues in *The Environmental Ethics*:

The sustaining matrix is built of green plants with legions of micro organism and mostly small, obscure animals- in other words, weeds and bog ... would wish it to be run, because humanity evolved within living communities and our bodily functions are finely adjusted to the idiosyncratic environment already created. (156)

Everything in environment webs to each other and maintains a chain to each other. Nothing in this earth is independent. All are interlocked in a chain having their space to contribute others and having something or someone to contribute them. In the text

after the death of Mrs. Carven, Mr. Carven closed the door of the garden and also always maintains a distance between him and his son. The sadness keeps Mr. Carven away from his son and other people. He always keeps himself busy in order to avoid the misery. This cause harm to both garden and Colin; garden is dead and Colin becomes physically ill. But the garden becomes the source to connect them together and also it becomes the curer. In order to experience the garden and find a connection between him and his mother he goes to the garden. This brings him solace and peace of mind which heals him. This shows that there is a web between nature and human which interrelates each other.

Sometimes, the word “environment” creates confusion with other words like “Ecology”, “Ecosystem” and “Biosphere”. Ecology is the scientific study of the relationship between organism and all aspects of their environment. Similarly ecosystem is the study of web of connection. One thing is related with another one in a particular environment. In this situation, environment education plays a significant role to connect natural objects and maintain balance in environment. It gives knowledge about various aspects of environment and their interdependence. Hence there should be balance between living and non living things. Edward O. Wilson writes:

This proposition suggests that human identity and personal fulfillment somehow depend on our relationship to nature. The human need for nature is linked not just to the material exploitation of the environment but also to the influence of the natural world on our emotional cognitive, aesthetic and even spiritual development. (42-43)

Edward’s opinion regarding this proposition is to show relationship between nature and human to get identity in this earth. Nature has long been acknowledged as a

source of healing either by the great spiritual tradition or by modern day psychiatric and medical facilities. Useful with all the children, it emphasizes the universal characteristics of feeling the sense of boring, belonging and no interest of living. The satisfaction of the basic needs through interaction with nature in the therapeutic setting can heal the children's mind properly.

The Secret Garden is a story of awakening of Mary who has been denied love and parental care. The garden reawakens both symbol and agent, offers a good transformation of lives. The garden does not simply center on the natural garden rather it centers on the secret connection between human and non-human world representing human nature relation as a compliment. Mary works a lot inside and outside the garden and consequently becomes both part of the process and its recipient out of which one of Colin's acts on his first visit is to plant a rose and make the garden alive.

Being discarded child, she has never been taught social manner like self control and consideration for others. As the center of her own universe, others exist only in relation to her. Burnett is clear no reasons to depict human nature relation shifting one mode of life to the next. The change comes when she visits Colin and gets accompanied with her. Moreover, her activities and dare to bring Colin out from the Misselthwait Manor make her courageous. Later she goes to the garden and compares the life of her own and the life of garden which inspires her. This inspiration comes only with harmony of nature. In this regard, we can believe that nature is related to human.

Mary's mother never wants a child. Mary has, therefore been reared by servants whose job is to keep her quiet and out of the way. Although in most of the nineteenth century fiction written particularly by women, a mother is the chief model

for a girl child. Mary's mother does not function so; rather she leaves her child alone luring to physical beauty and glamour. She shows somehow remarkable character regarding nature and comments:

Mary has the most unattractive ways I ever saw in the child perhaps if her mother had carried her pretty face and pretty manner oftener into the nursery. Mary might have learned some pretty ways too. It is sad, now the poor beautiful thing is gone, to remember that many people never even knew that she had a child at all. (10)

The above lines show the real condition of Mary for being such a disagreeable child and her mother's attitudes. By portraying Mary as an unattractive survivor, Burnett has made clear the distance she has travelled on the Yorkshire moors and in the garden. She insists that the world of nature begins both her physical and psychological cure because on one hand she gets recovered even being hunchback and on the other hand she becomes physically fit. The intrinsic information about healing is the human nature harmony. The secret magic and conjuring intelligence have gradually improved to two children after smelling and tasting of spring wind, moors and different seasonal lilies; most particularly from the secret garden. She and her friends make this garden alive and beautiful. Working in the garden seeing the flowers, trees and playing with the birds and animals heal her bad temper. By the end of this novel, Mary is no longer bitter and deserted, she insisted an ordinary playful ten years old girl surrounded by her intimates. Who becomes aware of the power of nature which gives her satisfaction and liberation in her life.

This is the human-nature co existence explored in the novel. The feeling of rebirth comes to the mind of Mary herself with a sharp mind like electric batteries because she automatically comes to realize that she is being cured from the nature,

therefore she feels:

So long as Mistress Mary's mind was full of disagreeable thoughts about her dislikes and sour opinions of people and ... Circumstances, however were very kind to her, though she was not at all aware of it. They began to push her about for her own good. When her mind gradually filled with robin and moorland cottage crowded with children, with queer, crabbed old gardener and common little Yorkshire housemaids. (229-30)

The above lines are to explore the positive changes that have come to Mary. Richard Kerridge says that *The Secret Garden* offers more persuasive parallels of the life of Mary and the life of the secret garden because for both Mary and garden new life has become successful when they had close proximity with natural things. To co ordinate with the theme of human nature relationship, nevertheless, these works contain only general anticipations of the image are lacking in detailed ingredients. The roses, the secret door, the bird, the thrush, the menacing and regenerative power of the garden, the vision of children concealed among the leaves, the suppressed laughter and the sunshine which appear at the moment of resolution to justify that there is a close affinity between Human and Nature.

Later, spending time in the garden creates the bond between children and nature. From the story, the garden is a place where children come to visit and spend their time with the natural world. At first, Mary, Colin and Dickon are alone. Mary likes to wander around the manor because she is bored. Mary's cousin Colin always keeps himself in his bedroom because of his poor health condition while the maid's brother Dickon likes to play alone with nature and animals. After spending their time in the garden, the children feel that they are united with the garden. They become

aware the human and nature are interconnected to each other. This indicates that children cannot stand to see nature decay. They will try to do as much as they can to save it. The more they spend their time there, the more they feel that they are part of the natural world. Their actions create a bond between them and nature.

Natural environment has ability to renew humans both mentally and physically. Firstly, the garden revives Mary. According to Vicki Bohling, "Nature teaches us that sad times do not last forever and just as seasons change, so does the experience in our lives" (49). At first, Mary feels insecure and heartbroken at the loss of both her parents in India. Later, she has to be relocated to England to stay with her uncle. Spending time in the garden helps Mary slowly cope with her sadness. At first, Mary encounters difficulty in changing her old habits. People at the manor around her do not want to be friend with her. Also, she has a dress by herself and obeys the housekeeper. Actually, she even feels that all of the servants do not want to befriend her. These are all new experiences for her. She feels unwanted by the servants. However, her life changes forever after the housekeeper, Mrs. Medlock gives her a choice of staying at the manor or playing outside, "Mrs. Medlock sighed at the pale skinny child, swamped by the big bed 'just drink your milk then, she said and you can go out'. Don't want to retorted Mary. Well if you don't you'll be stuck in here and there's nothing to do inside, snapped Mrs. Medlock." (18)

Mary's sadness starts to fade away after she discovers the garden. Her decision to explore the garden changes her life forever. Mary starts to explore the surrounding by wandering around. She now sees things she had never noticed before such as birds and many kinds of plants while enjoying the beauty of the natural environment around the manor. After she finds the key to the garden she suddenly has hope to become revive. Later many outdoor activities at the garden such as growing

trees or playing with her friends promote her health. At first, people describe Mary as a pale and skinny girl. The tropical climate and sunlight in India are not providing her with any benefits. However, after she spends her time repairing the garden, Mary's physical appearance continuously improves. Furthermore, spending many hours in planting she regains her appetite. She soon becomes healthy and her skin changes from pale to rosy. Mrs. Medlock notices her improvement. "She looks down right pretty now, with her rosy cheek" (24).

The garden or the nature has changes Mary health, characteristics and also encourages her to save others. This is the awareness of the intrinsic relation between human and nature. This intrinsic relation mostly stressed on the moral and spiritual need to respect nature. We human should balance our life with nature; this can only protect all species, because human is also a part of nature in this issues, Aldo Leopold, in *The Land Ethic* argues us to look at the complex and related interests of the entire biotic community and beyond short term self-interest in our attitudes about land and our use its recourses. The land ethic simply enlarges the boundaries of the community to include soil, water, plants and animals. It implies respect for his fellow members, and also respect for the community as such. According to him "A land ethic...reflects the existence of ecological conscience, a convention of individual responsibility for the health of the land. Health is the capacity of the land for self-renewal" (45). Sound health of the land provides sound existence of ecological conscience. Things and human activities of the biosphere should be guided by the spirit of ecological conscience. He concludes, "Things is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community, it is wrong when it tends to do otherwise" (46).

There is a view that human beings, is on the top of the natural hierarchy, they

have been exploiting the earth and using the resources as if the resources are all meant for them. Therefore, the ethics to dominate non-human world produce ecological crisis and posed the necessity of environmental ethics that is the consciousness of moral importance regarding the circumstances or conditions by which one is surrounded. This consciousness of moral importance regarding the relation of plants and living creatures to each other and to their environment allow moving towards ecological organism. Ecological organism is the interrelationship between the living things and their physical environment. It further refers to the ecological chain of interdependence. In this organism, every element is positioned equally as a part of whole universe. And if there is any harm to one element, the whole chain is disturbed, for everything is equally participated in this circular chain. In this respect Paul W. Taylor explains in *Respect for Nature: A Theory of Environmental Ethics*, the meaning of the inherent worth of living organisms and how this concept coupled with a rejection of human superiority can be used for on the basis for a justifiable system of environmental ethics, “One of the central aims of environmental ethics has been to contest on anthropocentric, instrumental valuation of the non-human natural world, and to argue that new ways of thinking about and valuing it are needed” (18-19). Thus, it is inevitable to put forward environmental ethics to cope the ecological crisis. In contrast to anthropocentric world view, the bio-centric world view advocates its focus on horizontal relation of all the entities of the world. Bio-centric value focuses on nature having its own right to be protected and creates harmonious relation among its all ingredients. To the extent, bio-centrism extends the moral responsibilities and obligation of human beings to conserve the earth as mother. It is the source of everything. Humans should not harm nature because we are part of nature; species have a right to continue; and nature has intrinsic broader than mere species survival.

All species have a right to evolve without human interference. If extinction is going to happen, it should happen naturally, not through human actions. It implies a move towards a bio-centric world view, an extension of ethics, a broadening human conception, global community to include non human life form and the physical environment.

In *The Secret Garden* Burnett posits the view of bio-centrism he emphasizes more in cultivating. He in this text shows the harmonious relation between human and nature by connecting both with each other. In the text Mary is seen as spoiled and rude in India. However, she turns to be an optimistic, gentle and caring person. The first moment that she truly cares about others is portrayed in the scene when she sees the garden. The extremely poor condition of the secret garden raises Mary's environmental awareness. The garden not only changes Mary characteristics but also encourages her to save others. Colin on the other hand enters into the garden with Dickon this signifies his entry into the world of healing nature. The best and common example of human nature relation is best be illustrated by the entry of Dickon to the garden along with two children, Mary and Colin. His physical and mental recovery follows immediately after he stands on his own feet for the first time. This is the great miraculous change happened to Colin for the first time. Not only two children were been cured, the garden frees Mr. Carven, Colin's father, from his sadness and reunites him with his son again. After the death of his wife, Mr. Carven always keeps himself in his room. He also works hard in order to keep himself busy. His grief is the barrier between him and his son. The garden finally brings Mr. Carven back to his son and also leads them towards a new beginning. And also the garden which has become dead a long ago has been come alive after visiting of the children. This entire thing shows that both the characters have balanced their life with nature. And it is the bio-

centric view of Burnett.

The change, of Colin has become a tremendous transformation of life from a hunch back to a normal ordinary boy by whipping all his mental and physical sufferings and being an extraordinary boy getting healed in the nature. Therapeutic use of nature in the counseling experience can be a powerful source of healing for the alienation that keeps youth and families on the edge of society. Burnett, very clearly hints the bad effects of homely environment. She shows that the artificial world cannot satisfy and feel free but nature can only give pleasure. She argues, “It was a big room with ancient, ancient furniture in it. There was a low fire glowing faintly on the hearth and a night light burning by the side of a carved four post bed hung with brocade, and on the bed was lying a body. Crying pitifully” (103). These lines show the pathetic condition of Colin, only one creature among beautifully furnished hall lying on the bed. The big house and handsome furniture cannot give pleasure and good health. Colin is lying on the bed crying and crying. He cannot get the openness of nature. In this comfortable house, the character Colin has not felt comfort but seeming ill and ugly. She presents the character, Colin in such a position that he is unusual.

The boy had a sharp, delicate face the color of ivory and he seemed to have eyes too big for it. He had also a lot of hair which tumbled over his forehead in heavy locks and made his thin face seem smaller. He looked like a boy who had been ill, but he was crying more as if he were in pain. (103)

The reason of crying is his pathetic condition on the bed before coming to the normal condition and getting contacted with nature. Really Colin has been locked up inside the house. If they have not locked he would be free and would be fresh and healthy.

The concept of garden solely inspired and wants to unlock the garden at any cost because the garden has provided fresh air to him which symbolically represents that he is being healed by the garden. Being interested to see the garden and getting fresh air are the symbol of getting healed psychologically in nature. Hope of living after listening about the garden, curiosity to see the garden is the good symptom of power in the nature which we see in the character Colin. Doors of Colin are closed forever by carelessness, hate, disability and lack of parental love can be opened by giving them to play in the garden or other natural world. Children become trapped and act out their sense of disconnectedness when they are totally entrapped inside the home without letting to know about the outer environment.

Moreover, Mary and Colin never progress, become healthy and fresh. Playing with environmental things and nature heal the children from mental and physical state to extraordinary human citizen. These all can be provided through natural therapy. It is through the experience of nature and the philosophy of interconnectedness that children and family can develop a sense of connection with family, natural things and freedom themselves.

In *The Secret Garden* Burnett shows that the children need the freshness of outer environment and parental love. Both of the characters Mary and Colin were entrapped inside the house but later they themselves come out and play with natural things and the natural power change them. Mrs. Medlock comments after seeing these two children before and after:

She began to be downright pretty since she's filled out and lost her ugly little color. The glummiest, ill natured little thing she used to be, and now her and sour look. Her hair's grown thick and healthy looking and she's got a bright master Colin laugh together like pair of crazy

young ones. Perhaps they are growing fat on them. (212)

Above cited lines are avid to two children because nature has made them better and better than the previous ones. When the secret garden and two children come alive, the feelings, activities and life structure of both of them change. The new beautiful thoughts begin to push out the old hideous life and one begins to come back to him. His blood runs healthy through his veins and strength power into him like a flood. Destructive relationship with the self, within families and society can be transformed into cooperative, respectful, trusting and sympathetic relationships when the counselor assists in the development of positive attachments and a sense of belonging through the individuals and group activities to incorporate nature. When the importance of harmony in interrelationship of natural world is emphasized in these activities, it respects for and develops self acceptance.

This novel moves to a climax in which father and son are reconciled to each other and to the paralyzing past. Both are restored to health in the rose garden at Misselthwaite. The progress towards Colin's restoration begins when he joins at Misselthwaite by his orphaned cousin, Mary Lennox who comes to England for the first time after the death of her parents in India. The robin leads her to the buried key of the rose garden, which becomes the secret playground of the children. The secrecy and the burial of the key to the locked door are the result of Archibald's misgivings over the death of his wife, who had been killed by a falling branch in the rose garden.

The psychological threat represented by the garden and by Colin is redeemed. Likewise, there has come gradual change to the mind of Colin as well at the end of the novel. To show the change of Colin, Burnett posits:

So long as Colin shut himself up in his room and thought only of his fears and weakness ... life began to come back to him, his blood ran

healthily through his veins and strength poured into him like a flood. His scientific experiment was quite practical and simple and there was nothing weird about it at all. Much more surprising things can happen to anyone who ... the sense to remember in time and push it out by putting in an agreeable, determinedly courageous one. (230)

The above lines portray Colin's character in past and present. In the present time, Colin has become to remember everything with his best senses. This is next clue Burnett's book is to show that nature heals human in course of time; that is why the book *The Secret Garden* has human nature relation.

The main reason of hope of life in Dickon is that he is close to nature. Mother Nature has provided to him same like own mother. Moreover, the companion of the garden has sent her outside the environment and natural world. Dickon the master of garden and Colin make plan and come with the conclusion that Dickon brings him to the garden and makes him familiar to bird, robin redbreast and other natural wild creatures and the garden. The natural environment and outer surrounding change his body structure, thinking power and gradual improvement of health condition. It is seen the clear smile in face. When Dickon and Mary plant the seeds of flowers in the garden, it becomes active and the children also become alive. Burnett cites the truth in these lines:

The seeds Dickon and Mary had planted grew as if fairies had tended them. Satiny poppies of all tints ... they came alive day by day, hour by hour. Fair, fresh leaves, - and buds - and buds - tiny at first, but swelling and working magic until they burst and uncurled into cups of scent delicately spilling themselves over their brims and filling the garden. (192-93)

Above lines show the reality of the Mary and Colin return back to their normal life when they become befriended among each other with Dickon. They beget their life alive after they start talking with plants and animal. This is the impact of outer nature provided to them. If there is not nature, they cannot be healed.

Burnett's healing power of nature has been attested by poets and prophets but it is more currently being reviewed in the literature of counseling under the various natural therapies. Religious and cultural studies indicate that human and nature have always had a natural relationship which provides for the spiritual and practical needs of people. Contemporary writers assert that mental health may be directly affected by this relationship. Our society has moved to proximity from contact of nature because the more near we have become, the more relationship builds up as a meaningful interactions within the family, school and each other. Profoundly positive effects have been observed on participants in environmental education, school camps and wilderness camping experiences. Increasingly self-esteem, self confidence, self concept and pride are some of the effects in interactions with nature as well as increased levels of responsibly and development of physical skills.

Burnett can be called an ecologist. She has the ecological awareness so that she has shown the beautiful harmony of nature to human with the help of Mary and Colin's condition after close attachment of the garden, moor and lilacs. She presents the dead garden in the absence of Colin's mother, the trees and the dead flowers and only the bushes are there. The beauty of nature is lost. She writes:

There were neither leaves nor roses on them now, and Mary did not know whether they were dead or alive, but their thin grey or brown branches and sprays looked like a short of hazy mantle spreading over everything, walls and trees and even brown grass, where they had

fallen from their fastenings and run along the ground. (64)

The above lines explore the condition of garden during ten years of times when it was locked. The bird, robin redbreast follows to them and shows the key of the garden and there they play together and become happy. Robin the bird helping Mary is also an example of the relation between human and nature. Gardening can be used to produce vegetables and flowers which can heal the human mind. Both the skills of gardening and the internal reward of sharing the products of gardening are sources of pride for the children. Being able to recognize and know the names of local birds in a cognitive skill which can be shared with others and bring self esteem. The development of the child is confident in his or her ability to interact completely with nature. This allows the modern children to acquire the mastery which their more agrarian ancestors were more able to achieve naturally.

The use of nature based activities makes concert the agrarian wisdom of our pioneer communities which taught the interconnected condition of all beings. The magic power of changing life style of Colin and Mary demonstrates hypnotizing power of the nature has in the following lines:

The great scientific discoveries I am going to make will be about magic. Magic is a great thing and scarcely anyone knows anything about it except a few people in old books – and Mary a little, because she was born in India. I believe Dickon knows some magic. But perhaps he does not know he knows it. He charms animals and people. I would never have let him come to see me if he had not been an animal. (194)

The above lines try to explore the magical effect found in nature which is hidden, secret and unknown to everyone. Recent studies have upheld the claim to classic

status of this delightful work, which portrays a process of spiritual desolation, rebirth, and reconciliation. This novel *The Secret Garden* also raises the hidden laughter of children in the foliage. The sparkling life after the long suppressed life changes condition of Mary and who have lost his hunchback and mental retardation. This symbolizes the positive change of nature.

The relation between health and location and well being and beauty are important motif throughout the novel *The Secret Garden*. The beauty of Mary's mother conceals a moral illness or illness of soul. That represents the inner soul of human propounding with nature and ecological power. Illness and its obvious causes are crucial to the novel as a whole. Natural beauty is the trace of the non-identical in things under the spell of universal identity. As long as this spell prevails, the non-identity has no positive existence. Therefore, natural beauty remains as dispersed and uncertain as what it promises that which supposed all human immense. The observation of robin towards the children's activities in the garden proves the ecological harmony to human beings. Robin is a symbolic feature of nature whose help is very important to bring Mary and Colin into normal position.

The children at the end of the novel show Mrs. Sowerby every part of the secret garden thinking that she is mother of the earth. She is supposed as the mother of the garden and two children because she is nanny in the novel and has given every kind of requirements they need. Colin and Mary are appealingly drawn to the warm supported feeling that she inspired in both of them. This proves that the hunchback and lonely children like them are now able to show each and every part of the secret garden. They can tell the animals, plants and other among the things in the secret garden. They are well known to the outer world and get prosperous to them. This message is secretly conveyed. This incorporates the dramatic change of Colin who

has become very touched, loved and normal.

The overall result of this thesis is to show that the garden, a beautiful healing place escaping away all ill treatment of the children literally hiding out past troubles of the children making them normal because of the human nature relation. Without the garden, Mary and Colin's life will not revive and remain same like before. In this regard, nature has played the role of mother. Therefore, the nature is a mother, a healer and life inspirer for both the children taming them properly. Even Colin said that his own mother is also present there in the garden to make him satisfied as a soul. The assumption of his own mother presenting in the garden shows the hope condition of Colin in his mind. The activities of children from the point of view of the robin provide the reader with undeniable proof that the robin redbreast is responsive, or conscious, with the mind of its own. In this way, the narrator attempts to justify the personification of natural world that occurs throughout the novel. Mrs. Sowerby's talk with the nature suggests the presence of magic that Burnett wishes it could be to heal the children. Throughout the novel, both climate and landscape are presented as having a determining influence upon one's health and well being. This represents that one can only be truly healthy by being in harmony with one's environment. The protagonist Mary and Colin becomes healthy while playing in the garden. As well as the garden becomes alive when the children enters into the garden. This shows we must respect the nature by balancing out life with nature. This can only protect all the species of this earth. Therefore, *The Secret Garden* claims that there is close relationship between human and nature.

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